







## Extracts.

*Messie's Last Days.*  
The following lines were written by Rosell in prison, the day but one before the execution:

"It was about eleven o'clock when I had done writing and drawing. Then, with passing about my cell, I remembered that my mother said to me, as she said to the grating of the prison, 'You are not to give them money—what to give 20,000 francs? We have got them! You have got 20,000 francs, my poor mother! You have collected all your resources, and you want to know whether it is enough to ransom your son. No, my mother—if I had delivered my army to captivity—she would have millions, and that would be enough. There is no need to give us, my mother, to condemn us, solely because I am a spy. I am condemned by this wild schemer to have me by impossible means."

"'Couldn't you save the bars of your window? Couldn't you come out of the prison instead of M. Passa when he comes to see you? I am thinking of all this, and especially of that idea of getting together twenty thousand francs and offering them as ransom for my life. I feel inclined to cry. But the door of the cell is a small grating through which the warden frequently passes. M. Passa, who is a good man, comes to these people! They are good-natured fellows, though they are soldiers; they might attempt to console me. 'Look here, Monsieur Rosell, you must not believe that; it's not possible; I don't believe in it. And then, you know, there's nothing certain yet.' I put my candle out, and walked up and down by the glimmering light of the candle, which, in comparison with the bright lamp, which I had left burning, I cried and sobbed as much as I could, stopping in the corner by the side of the door, where one cannot be seen, leaning my face against the wall and calling in a whisper, 'My mother, my mother! About twelve o'clock, and almost immediately the course of my ideas changed: After all, thought I, how many mothers lose every day a dearly loved son, and are unable to console him? The world is full of such sorrow. And I, who have seen so much, wish for? But how much there is in which makes death repayment! I said to myself, I arrive not to complain, and yet feel that I have a right to complain. I have not lived long enough; I want to work, to think, to act, to love— to love above everything. My lungs could hold breath, and my heart beat, for years to come. It is not natural to die thus. My thoughts are still in that state of mind, when I am thinking how rapidly that has gone past, and how the perspective of the past and future changes at every moment. I am no longer what I was yesterday. Whole pages seem to be missing from the book of my memory. An air from one of Mozart's operas has just filled past my brain. What are these joyous notes doing here? Is it not I who have known and liked them all? I have almost forgotten it, and in vain I try to recall it. How many moments, how many sensations, are there still left? I have heard a quarter to one strike. I mentally fathom the elements of the great problem, existence, the individual self, the organic envelope, the resulting power of the organs, of impressions, of affections, of impulses; where is effect, where is cause. I fall asleep in reflecting on this, and wake to continue at half-past twelve. They will allow me to go to sleep without troubling, and even to talk with them. They are in a vacant cell; the director will be present, and M. Passa will probably come to it. At quarter past eleven they come and fetch me, to place me in cell No. 2, where they have brought chairs. They come in, sit down. The director has no longer any fears, and allows me to sit down, while my mother and sister, Father and I, sit up. It is with M. Passa that I have a seat a little further off. Little Sante in front of me on my right. They have promised not to cry. M. Passa has told them that I cried yesterday, and has made them promise to be calm. He took the little one away with him to pass the evening with his children. Father is back. M. Thiers could tell him nothing, and he is not master. Father had asked to see him, and was told that he must speak to M. B. Saint-Hilaire. He came, and says to Barres, 'I have no longer any fear; I have no longer any hesitations, oscillates, and tries to adjourn.' I am not going to wait to defend my son till it's all over. I shall not go away without having seen M. Thiers. You can turn me out if you like. I shall wait till you send for the guard. M. Thiers comes. My father addressed him generally; it tells him that I have been before no judges, but before assassins; proves it to him. He wrote to his wife, intended to set forth the facts of his life, and to give her a full account of his life, and to bring him a third letter, in which he completes his exposition. These letters he will publish. France must be called upon to judge. 'No one has a right to assassinate a child.' How noble my father is, how good he is, how energetic on critical occasions, and how peaceful in ordinary life! Indifferent to little things, he is incapable of seeing the meanness of others. Joly came to see us at about four o'clock. We have broken that he will be present, and bring him a third letter, in which he completes his exposition. These letters he will publish."

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"The Friends of a Free France.

We are induced to believe that the half-mories from which most of us suffer are of our own making. If we would be happy we have only to cut away from our lives the superfluities which overburden them, and which are usually a continual source of anxiety to us all. Why, for example, should we place ourselves in a false position merely for the satisfaction of others, or to meet some absurd requirement of society? Why should any man assume to be what he is not? We are all too apt to be a little too anxious about our follow-sisters? And why, in short, are we not all more natural and less fitted in our intellects with each other? The answer is not far to seek. The great mass of our countrymen have a certain taste of snobishness in their dispositions, which they would, perhaps, be unwilling to exhibit in its broadest possible aspect. We have all learned the lesson which Mr. Grundy has so ingeniously taught us, that the upper classes are the best. All the world over, and in every country, the English social life is, in short, a species of refined slavery; there is the dash or the grand opinion ready for the man who ventures to be original, and social outlaws for such vagabonds or rascals as refuse to submit to rule and precedent. Mild enter- tains, who, though often causes of much trouble, are continually encroaching over the evils of the world, and are on the alert to effect the boundless and absolute domination which divides the various sections of society. One professor of the philosophy of Utopia will bring the lower and upper ranks together on a footing of common brotherhood; another would fuse the whole middle class into one homogeneous mass; while a third would make intellect or talent the sole passport to what is called good society. We hear much of the gradual regeneration of certain classes, and of the progress of society; but, as far as our experience goes, we do not find that the property qualification, if we may so express ourselves, has less weight in the world now than in any period of modern history. The rich snob is always certain of some degree of consideration from people of unexpected position in the world, while the poor man of talent, who may be admitted amongst the upper classes, has to undergo many daily humiliations to put out of the false position in which he finds himself. Let us assume the latter to be possessed of high, but not rare, ability; that he has acquired some share of popularity, and that his wide reading and accurate thinking make him a really valuable acquisition to the people who

patronise him. It is the fashion to say that such a man finds himself the social equal of any one with whom he may come in contact, and this, of course, may be true in the case of a genius of high order. But we are not told what of the higher section of society, but of that mediocre talent of which there is a plentiful crop, and of those ominously respectable classes who think more of the length of a man's purse than they ever do of the weight or texture of his brains. Assume that such a man holds a doubtful position in the world, that he is poor, and passes every day in the wretched dreary of mechanical drudgery. His wife, too, is poor, bringing into contact with persons for whom she is in a social position, whose habits are foreign to her, and who know little, or nothing of the sphere in which he spends the greater portion of his time. He cannot wholly avoid those people, however much his sense may prompt him to do so. He must either hide with his equals, and miss all chance of exchanging ideas with minds of his own scope, or he must risk his pride and consent to submit to the special trials which surround a false position.

He discovers that he is tolerated merely because he is clever; that he is valued for his conversation, or for his power of amusing his hosts, and that he stands on a footing totally different from that which men with great worldly advantages can demand at a right.

The very compliments he receives grate on his ears, and in every way offend him.

He is compelled to wait and position is in fact the only legitimate passport to the respect and admiration of the world. Money can do so much that mere ability cannot accomplish, and the rich man usually stands before him in the estimation of the people with whom he associates. Society, of course, always disclaims this impecuniosity, and there are some good people in the world who affect to value men merely for his mental qualities, and not for his social position. This is a state of life which I do not believe in.

He is compelled to do what he can to support his wife, and to make the best of his position.

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## Insurances.

YANG-TSE INSURANCE ASSOCIATION OF SHANGHAI.

CAPITAL AND SURPLUS 750,000 TAEL.

POLICIES granted on Marine Risks to all parts of the World, at current rates.

In addition to the usual Brokerage, the Association returns to policy holders One-third of its yearly premium, insurance included, paid quarterly, on the net premium contributed.

BUSSELL & CO., Agents, 1893 Hongkong, 26th December, 1870.

THE LIVERPOOL AND BOMBAY TRADERS INSURANCE COMPANY.

THE undersigned having been appointed Agents for the above Company at this port, are prepared to grant Policies against Fire, to the extent of £10,000, on Buildings or on Goods stored therein.

NORTON, LYALL & CO. Agents, 241 Hongkong, 23rd January, 1870.

THE HONGKONG FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

THE Undersigned having been appointed Agents for the above Company at this port, are prepared to grant Policies against Fire, to the extent of £10,000, on Buildings or on Goods stored therein.

HOLLIDAY, WISE & CO. Agents, 477 Hongkong, 23rd April, 1870.

THE LONDON & SUBURBAN INSURANCE COMPANY, INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER.

THE Undersigned having been appointed Agents for the above Company at this port, are prepared to grant Policies against Fire, to the extent of £10,000, on Buildings or on Goods stored therein.

HIS MAJESTY KING GEORGE THE FIRST, A.D. 1730.

THE Undersigned having been appointed Agents for the above Corporation, are prepared to grant Insurances as follows:

MARINE DEPARTMENT.

Policies at current rates, payable either here, in London, at the principal Ports of India, China, and Japan.

HIGH DEPARTMENT.

Policies issued for sums not exceeding £5,000 on reasonable terms.

HOLLIDAY, WISE & CO. Agents, 1872 Hongkong, 1st November, 1870.

NORTH BRITISH AND MERCANTILE INSURANCE COMPANY.

THE Undersigned having been appointed Agents for the above Company at this port, are prepared to grant Policies against Fire, to the extent of £10,000, on Buildings or on Goods stored therein.

NORTON, LYALL & CO. Agents, 199 Hongkong, 14th November, 1870.

NOTICE.

THE QUEEN INSURANCE COMPANY.

THE following rates will be charged in future for SHORT PERIOD Insurances, viz:

Not exceeding 1 month, 1/2 per cent.

Above 1 month and not 3 months, 1/2 per cent.

Above 3 months and not 6 months, 1/2 per cent.

Above 6 months the full annual rate.

GILMAN & CO., Agents, 1872 Hongkong, 7th April, 1870.

NOTICE.

VICTORIA FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY OF HONGKONG, LIMITED.

THE Undersigned having been appointed Agents for the above Company at this port, are prepared to grant Policies against Fire, to the extent of £10,000, on Buildings or on Goods stored therein.

ROBERT S. WALKER & CO. Agents, Royal Insurance Company, 1873 Hongkong, 1st November, 1870.

NOTICE.

THE CHINESE FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY OF HONGKONG, LIMITED.

THE Undersigned having been appointed Agents for the above Company at this port, are prepared to grant Policies against Fire, to the extent of £10,000, on Buildings or on Goods stored therein.

ROBERT S. WALKER & CO. Agents, Royal Insurance Company, 1873 Hongkong, 1st November, 1870.

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